

tact with a new Act of Parliament, very strict and complicated in its requirements, and which had been passed in order the better to prevent fraud and imposition being practised upon shareholders. This Act had, therefore, to be our study, and the Saints will perceive at once how it was we could not give information which we had not ourselves attained. We shall, however, endeavour from time to time, and particularly in our General Conference, to lay before them all the information which we can relative to the formation of the Society, its rules, and also what is intended to be done in carrying it out into practical operation.

Many of the Saints of the last days are in comparatively poor circumstances, with regard to the wealth and good things of this world, neither have they had opportunities of becoming persons of business and trade; but, by the blessing of God, the Company, in its practical operations, will be a means of much instruction to many, and we trust also of delivering many from the shackles of poverty, and of making them free citizens of the kingdom of God.

We would say, therefore, to all and to each, be not content merely to observe and watch the labours of others, but take one share at least, if not more, (which even the poorest may do,) that you may feel yourselves associated with so great an undertaking for promoting the building up of the kingdom of God.

#### EDITOR.

#### CONFERENCE MINUTES.

*Merthyr Tydvil, March 15 & 16, 1846.*

Sunday at half-past ten A.M., the meeting was called to order. Elder D. Jones presided. After a few interesting preliminaries the presiding elders represented 24 branches, including 14 elders, 28 priests, 18 teachers, 11 deacons. Baptized in the last three months 102, making the total number of Saints in Wales to be 600. The elders represented the general state of the churches to be good, and the prospects flattering.

At Two P.M., held a Saints' meeting, which was well attended. Administered the sacrament; and the Saints bore strong and interesting testimonies of the wonderful goodness of God, in the language in which they were born; after which the president exhorted all to be faithful to the end, and showed the absolute necessity of union among the Saints, and of charity and humility, &c., and it was truly a time of refreshing, and it appeared that the only thing that disturbed the meeting was the Saints, at the least noise, glancing towards the door, constantly expecting, even to the last, the appearance of president Banks in our midst; but he, having been detained in coming from Bristol, arrived in time for the evening meeting. The news of his arrival having spread abroad, at 6 P.M. the Hall was thronged. After the usual ceremony by the president, he introduced president Banks to the audience—and to the chair by an unanimous vote.

President Banks, after a few complimentary remarks upon the peculiar circumstances under which he was placed in addressing a Welsh audience for the first time, showed that the great and glorious purposes of God in this "Dispensation of the fulness of times," was to prepare a people for His coming,—for glory, immortality, and eternal life; that in this great restoration of all things, a pure language should be restored also to all nations. He enlarged upon the beauties and glories of the kingdom with such eloquence, that it charmed the hearts and filled the souls of all who understood it with new life and vigour.

Elder Jones succeeded him, and translated the principle part of the discourse into Welsh, after which the meeting was dismissed by a benediction from president Banks.

Monday, 16.—Met at 11, A.M. President Banks presiding. Some unpleasant cases of aspiring spirits were examined and amicably adjusted, and the offenders restored to full confidence and fellowship, so that when the evening meeting closed, peace and universal restoration were established among all the Saints.

On motion of president Banks, "that Captain D. Jones preside over Merthyr Tydvil conference, in addition to his former presidency over Wales," it was carried unanimously,

and the meeting closed with thankful hearts to their heavenly Father for his goodness ; and showering blessings upon president Banks for the wisdom, judgment, and mercy which he manifested, and his success in restoring that union and brotherly love which are so desirable, and pleasing to God, and all good Saints.

P.S. I should have stated that 4 elders, 8 priests, 9 teachers, and 4 deacons, were ordained in the evening meeting.

Tuesday Evening held open council. President Banks presided, and instructed the different officers on the importance of discharging their various duties faithfully, and the beauty and glory of the priesthood, &c.

Wednesday Evening. President Banks, in a very clear manner, showed the advantages that would result from the "Joint Stock Company," and the necessity of the same to the happiness of the Saints. Captain Jones translated, and several shares were taken—many paid for shares previously taken, and all seemed to be determined to do all they can for the advancement of this glorious institution, as well as for the gospel of Christ.

I am happy to say that, we have some of the noble spirits of the days of yore in our midst, the sons of noble sires, yes, from the unconquered race of mountain chiefs, who will go, two by two, in a very short time, and sound the trumpet through every part of Wales, until the aspiring summits of Cambria's hills shall echo the sound to every glen, and warn them faithfully. May the God of their fathers be propitious to them.

I have, dear brother, written these few items in great haste, that you may have some idea of what we are doing hereabouts. I am, dear brother, your obt. servant,

D. JONES.

#### MANCHESTER.

March, 15th 1846.

Dear brother Ward,—I herewith send you the minutes of the Manchester Conference, held on Sunday, March 15th, in Bridge-street room. From a letter we received a few days previous from elder Hedlock, we did not expect him nor any of the Liverpool authorities, but to our astonishment, a little before the meeting opened, our much esteemed and beloved brother Hedlock entered the room, which cheered every countenance. After our much respected brother had taken his seat, he was requested to take the presidency of the meeting, but declined doing so as he had much to say to the Saints, and by being freed from that office, his mind would be more fixed upon those things which he had to communicate to the Saints for their future welfare and well-being in the cause of truth.

Elder William Walker rose and called the meeting to order, and moved that elder J. D. Ross should preside over the meeting, which was seconded and carried unanimously.

Elder Ross moved that elder Wm. Walker act as clerk, which was carried.

The meeting was opened with singing, elder Hedlock engaged in prayer. After which the president called upon elder Hedlock to address the meeting. Brother Hedlock said he certainly had much to say to the Saints, but he thought it would not be well timed before the representations of the various branches was gone through, he felt desirous that the representation should be proceeded with.

The president called for the representation. Twenty-four branches were represented ; their total number, including officers, were as follows :—1847 members, including 48 elders, 95 priests, 50 teachers, 28 deacons ; 120 baptized since last conference.

The president called upon the delegates from the various branches to speak as to their present condition and if any alterations or ordinations were necessary, it might be attended to.

Elder William Walker rose to speak as to the condition of the Manchester church. He said he felt highly pleased and satisfied at the state of the Manchester church, but he had one thing to say, that since he had been elected president of the Manchester branch he had met with more opposition from his brethren in the priesthood than any other elder that had preceded him. Some might say, why, how is that ? we verily thought you were at peace more so than ever you were before ? Well, that's true. But I will explain myself. You recollect that when elder Milton Holmes retired, and appointed elder Ross to succeed him as president of the Manchester conference, it had been in the minds of some individuals that the officers composing the Manchester council, together with the members, were in possession of such an evil spirit they could not endure the thoughts of having one to preside over them taken from their midst. Now the officers of the Manchester church were determined to eradicate that feeling from the breast of every individual who was in possession of it, by choosing one from their midst. Now the opposition I have met with from my brethren in the priesthood is, they one and all have been determined I should have little or nothing to do, and this they have done by their united efforts to do the will of God,

which gives me great joy and satisfaction. I have now been a member of this church nearly five years, and a great portion of that time in the priesthood, but never at any time have I witnessed so much love, goodwill, peace and union, as have existed for the last twelve months; truly our council meetings are a source of great comfort and consolation, all being united hand and heart in the Redeemer's cause. I feel satisfied that my mode of acting up to the present has given satisfaction to my brethren; when the head is well, the body is generally well also; but if the head be sick the body is somewhat affected; if the head be right there is not much trouble with the body. The teachings of elder Downes, some few weeks back, upon the Joint Stock Company, seemed to have inspired their minds with a double portion of the Spirit of God, and my prayer is that peace and union may continue in our midst, that the work of God may roll on. Even so. Amen.

Elder Richard Cook spoke as to the condition of the Stockport branch. He said in the Stockport church there were some of the best of Saints; men and women of noble spirits. Generally speaking, they are united in the cause of God. Since elder Downes had laid before them the Joint Stock Company, their hearts seemed full of joy and gladness at the prospects of their deliverance. He said he felt it an honour to be associated with such a people, and his daily prayer was that God would preserve them, that all might continue faithful to the end.

#### Afternoon Service

Opened by singing, and prayer by elder Charles Miller. After the Lord's Supper was administered, the remainder of the branches were represented by the delegates: all appeared to be in good condition with the exception of Rochdale, which appears to be labouring under difficulties of an old standing. Elder Levi Rigg desired something might be done for that branch.

Elder Levi Crawshaw moved that Samuel Bussin be ordained to the office of priest in the Mottram branch. Seconded and carried.

Elder Barker proposed that Edward Greenhalgh be ordained to the office of priest in the Pendlebury branch. Seconded and carried.

The ordinations were attended to under the hands of elders Hedlock, Ross, and Miller.

Moved by elder Levi Crawshaw, that the Edgeworth Moor branch be connected with the Tottington branch. Seconded and carried.

The remainder of the afternoon was taken up by elder Hedlock giving instruction and exhorting the Saints to be faithful. He said the question might be, and is often asked, why all this persecution of the Saints? Why are these people again compelled to leave their homes and lands and flee to the mountains for safety. Certainly there must be a cause? The answer to such an enquiring mind is this. The sole cause of all this persecution is of a political character, aided and assisted by professing christians. The Saints in America being a free people, and locating themselves in a slave state, aroused the jealousy of the slave-owners, and likewise the governors; the gospel of Christ being calculated to emancipate the slave, and the Saints being a free people were allowed the free right of voting, which they considered unjust, and would at a future day work against their interest. The pure gospel of Christ as taught by the Saints of God, strikes at the very root of all systems now extant, therefore it has brought all sects and parties together to join in one common destruction of both life and property, and such has been the case up to the present day. He also spoke of the trials, difficulties, persecutions, and sore afflictions which the servants of God and the church in the states of America have had to pass through since its first organization of six members; but now, said he, the day is not far distant when the Saints will stand high amongst civilized society, and the nations of the earth will look upon the church with wonder and amazement at her prosperity, beauty, excellency, and perfection, and the day is not far distant when the Saints will have a high standing in the mercantile world: he said, there is wisdom and intelligence sufficient amongst the Saints of God to raise them to a pitch of eminence and wealth. The present movement of the Saints from Nauvoo to California, and the forming of the Joint Stock Company in England, show at once that the mighty hand of the Lord is in it. While they are crossing the Rocky Mountains, we at this side of the water are preparing to open a communication of trade, so that they may be enabled to build up a new state, and provide them with every necessary. All things seemed to work together for good. Let the world be silent but for a little while, and we will gain their favour, goodwill and esteem, and they cannot help it, because they will see we are an honest, industrious, well-disposed, and business-like body of men, and that all our transactions and dealings are just and upright; by this means thousands will be led to flock to the standard of truth, and gather with the Saints of God. He also spoke in relation to the Joint Stock Company, and some of the advantages that might be derived from it to the shareholders, and also to the poor Saints who could not extricate themselves, which drew tears of joy and gladness from many in the congregation.

The meeting was called upon to assemble again at six o'clock, that elder Hedlock might have a little more time allowed to address them, having to leave Manchester for Liverpool by the last train.

### *Evening.*

Elder Hedlock addressed the Saints from the 5th chapter of Hebrews, it was truly an edifying discourse. He commenced with the promise of God made to Abraham, also the dealings of God with Moses, Elijah, down to Peter, James, and John; and last, though not least, the prophet Joseph Smith, showing the great work he had been called to perform, and the mighty and important consequences that must result therefrom.

Elder Hedlock left in order to take the train for Liverpool the same evening. The day was one which gave much satisfaction to all present.

W.M. WALKER,

President of the Branch of Manchester and Clerk of the Conference.

PRESTON.

Sunday, March 15, 1846.

The meeting being called to order, elder John Melling moved that elder John Holsall be president of this conference. Seconded by John Thornley, teacher, and carried unanimously. President elder Holsall then gave out the first hymn, when elder Speakman engaged in prayer; after which, John Fawley, priest, was chosen to act as clerk.

The third hymn was now sung, after which elder Holsall made the Saints understand that no one had come to the conference from the first presidency, wishing them not to be too much discouraged from this circumstance.

The officers present were then numbered. Elders, 9; priests, 10; teachers, 8; deacons, 3. Total number of members, 515.

Brother elder Melling represented the Preston branch to be in good standing, peace and unity reigning in the council meetings.

Elder Holsall made a few remarks on the necessity of ordaining a few officers to labour in this branch. He remarked that some were dead, others had emigrated, and he was sorry to say that some were negligent of their duty. He advised the officers to improve their minds in all useful knowledge, and to use all natural means in their power, to qualify themselves for the proper discharge of the important duties that devolved upon them. He gave much encouragement to the Saints, and prayed that God might bless them, and unite them together in unity and love.

Elder Melling then gave out the 31st hymn, and concluded with prayer. The meeting was adjourned until half-past two o'clock.

### *Afternoon Service.*

The meeting was opened by elder Holsall giving out the 188th hymn; he then engaged in prayer. The 143rd hymn was then sung, after which the sacrament of the Lord's supper was administered. Elder Worsley asked a blessing upon the bread; brother John Knowles, priest, asked a blessing upon the wine. While the bread and wine were being administered, the choir sang three select hymns.

Elder Holsall gave instructions upon the priesthood—its importance—its authority and power—and encouraged the brethren who were about to be ordained to diligence and faithfulness in their respective offices.

Elder Holsall, president, moved that John Fawley, priest, be ordained to the office of elder, in the place of elder Gardner, deceased. Seconded, and carried unanimously.

Moved by elder Holsall, that Robert Huntington, priest, be ordained to the office of elder, in the place of elder John Carter, deceased. Seconded and carried unanimously.

Moved by elder Holsall that John Harrison, priest, be ordained to the office of elder, in the place of elder John Parker, emigrated. Seconded and carried unanimously.

Elder Melling said he felt one with the motions that had been made by elder Holsall. He moved that brother James Fisher be ordained to the office of priest. Seconded and carried unanimously.

Moved by elder Melling that James Brown, teacher, be ordained to the office of priest. Seconded and carried unanimously.

Moved by elder Melling that John Thornley, teacher, be ordained priest. Seconded and carried unanimously.

Moved by elder Melling that John Hunt, teacher, be ordained priest. Seconded and carried unanimously.

Moved by elder Holsall that John Topping, be ordained teacher. Seconded and carried unanimously.

Moved by elder Holsall that William Wignall be ordained to the office of teacher. Seconded and carried unanimously.

Moved by elder Holsall that brother Thomas Salisbury be ordained teacher. Seconded and carried unanimously.

Moved by elder Holsall that James Hodson, priest, of Penwortham, be ordained to the office of elder, in place of elder John Melling, removed. Seconded and carried unanimously.

Moved by elder Holsall, that brother Robert Gregson be ordained to the office of priest, for Penwortham. Seconded and carried unanimously.

Each brother about to be ordained, expressed his determination, by the help of the Lord, to be diligent and faithful in the office to which he had been called.

President elder Holsall, elder Melling, and elder Speakman, conducted the above-mentioned ordinations.

The conference was now adjourned till it should be necessary to call another.

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow," &c., was then sung, when elder Speakman concluded with prayer.

The business of the conference was gone through in peace—unity and good feeling prevailed.

JOHN HOLSELL, President.

JOHN FAWLEY, Clerk.

LEAMINGTON.

March 30th, 1846.

Dear brother Ward,—Our conference was held yesterday, and I must say that it gives me great satisfaction when I think how the Lord has blessed our labours in this conference. I have been here about six months, and in that time we have baptized fifty-two into the kingdom of God. The first time I held a public meeting here, while giving my reasons for believing Joseph Smith to be a prophet of the Lord, and bearing my testimony to his character, a gentleman, in his great zeal for the Pope of Rome, struck at me, and tried to pull me off the platform; indeed for some time our meetings were interrupted, fixtures and windows broken, until we applied to the magistrates, who kindly sent the police, who took two of the men to prison, but at the request of the worthy magistrate, who gave them a severe reprimand, we did not press the charge; and I here wish to say that the conduct of the authorities of this town has been most praiseworthy, and I here thank them in the name of the Church, for their kindness in protecting us in the rights of Englishmen, as we can now hold our meetings in quietness, which are well attended, and many appear to be believing.

In and round the country the work is rolling on.

At Stratford-on-Avon we have a branch raised up by brother Freeman, who has had much to contend with, a few weeks since I went there and took a room for three months; I gave two lectures, which were well attended, and good attention was paid; but the priests and some of their friends thought it would disgrace their town to have the Mormons in a public room, so they took counsel, and with the help of a lawyer, and by telling a few falsehoods, locked us out of the room, so that when I went again I had to preach in the open air; and although a frosty night, we had a good attentive congregation; however, we have succeeded in taking another room, and expect soon to add to our numbers.

Brother Freeman at Stratford, and brother Waine at Bareford, have opened Sunday schools in each branch, and I think it will be productive of much good, as it preserves the children of the Saints from the taunts and insults of those who should know better, besides the benefit of the children being taught the principles of the gospel.

I have travelled much in this country, and there seems to be a great work commenced; we cannot supply the numerous calls for preaching that are made upon us.

I have found the Saints in this conference a kind and good people, and the officers willing to give heed to counsel, and do their utmost to roll on the work of God. Indeed, our prospects are most cheering, the Saints are rejoicing and looking forward to the time when all shall meet on Mount Zion, and rejoice in the goodness of the Lord, to whose name be all the glory.

Wishing you all in the Presidency every success in the cause of our God,

I remain, your brother in the gospel,

20, Chandos Street.

THOMAS SMITH.

Agreeably to appointment the Warwickshire Conference assembled in the Meeting-room, Leamington, on Sunday, March 29th. Elder Thomas Smith, President, and Elder John Lichorish, Clerk. The meeting was opened with singing and prayer. Officers present were, five elders, two priests, two teachers, and one deacon.

After the meeting had been addressed by the President, seven branches were represented, containing 168 members, including seven elders, nine priests, four teachers, and four deacons. Baptized since last conference, 33.

Several nominations to office were received by the conference, and their ordinations were attended to.

In the afternoon the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper being attended to, and some few having borne testimony to the work, the subject of the Joint Stock Company was then brought forward by the President, and spoken of by some of the brethren present, and several expressed their determination to make application for shares.

It was agreed to raise a subscription for the support of Brother Smith's family.

After the President had made a few remarks, and recommended the Saints to sympathize with the officers, and give them their support and confidence, &c., the meeting was closed with prayer, a good feeling having prevailed throughout the day.

THOMAS SMITH, President.

JOHN LICHORISH, Clerk.

### CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INDIAN CHARACTER.

Of the Choctaws, Bertram observes, "They were a hardy, subtle, brave, intrepid, ingenuous, and virtuous race. They erect a scaffold twenty feet high in a grave, upon which they lay their dead, and, after a sufficient time, the bones are placed in a coffin fabricated of bones and splints and deposited in the bone-house. The relations and a multitude follow with united voices, and alternate Hal-le-lu-yahs and lamentations."—*Bertram's Travels*, p. 514.

The same writer adds,—“The women are seldom above five feet; they are well formed, have round features, fine dark eyes, and are modest, subtle, and affectionate. The men are a full size larger than European; they are warlike, merciful, and haughty. They have had furious wars with the Spaniards.”

“Those of the other confederate tribes are tall, finely-formed perfect figures; their countenance dignified, open, and placid; the eyes rather small, dark, and full of fire; the nose inclining to aquiline; the brow and forehead strike you with heroism, and their air and action exhibit magnanimity and independence; their complexion is reddish brown.”—*Ibid.* p. 481.

Brackenridge says, “the government of Natchez is so strictly civilized, that it seems impossible for them to act out of the common high road of virtue.”

The Rev. Mr. Cushman, in a discourse preached at Plymouth, New England, in 1620, intended to contradict the slanders which were prevalent against the primitive inhabitants, observes, “The Indians are said to be the most cruel and treacherous people—like lions; but *to us they have been like lambs*, so kind, and helpful, and trusty, that a man may truly say there be few christians *so sincere and kind*. When there were not six able persons among us, and the Indians came daily to us by hundreds, with their sachemes or princes, and might in one hour have made despatch of us, yet *they never offered to us the least wrong in word or deed* these many years.”

“The history of the Brazilians, from the first incursions of the Spaniards to the year 1776, furnishes a long list of battles, evincive of a valor which no fatigue could weary, no danger dismay.”

“The Brazil Indians are very numerous, and divided into clans; the degree of their independence depends on their distance from the Portuguese settlements.”